



THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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CCI SLAPS ₹1,338 CRORE FINE ON GOOGLE FOR ABUSING POSITION

Competition Commission of India penalised the firm for abusing its lead in multiple markets in Android mobile device ecosystem

BUILT-IN APPS CONTRAVENE COMPETITION LAW

The CCI said the mandatory pre-installation of entire Google Mobile Suite, with no option to un-install the same, as well as its prominent placement amounts to imposition of unfair condition on the device manufacturers and thereby contravenes competition law. The fair trade regulator has directed Google to modify its conduct within a defined timeline | P18

REGULATOR ISSUES CEASE & DESIST ORDER

The CCI has directed the internet major to cease and desist from unfair business practices. The regulator also noted that the internet major has leveraged its dominant position in the app store market for Android OS to enter as well as protect its position in non-OS specific web browser market through Chrome

TWO

AGREEMENTS BETWEEN GOOGLE AND OEMS CITED FOR UNFAIR BIZ PRACTICES

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VAYANAD • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KODIOTTE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBLI • DHARMAPUR • KOTTAIYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADIPALLI • KUDLUR • NAGAPATTINAM • THIRUPUR • KALAIKOTTA

LITTLE TO CHEER

JOBLESSNESS PEAKS IN FESTIVE SEASON

UMA KANNAN @ Bengaluru

ROBUST festive sales and increasing domestic demand have not resulted in creating more jobs as the country's unemployment rate has shot up to 7.86% this month from 6.43% in September, the latest data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) showed. The spike was driven by rural unemployment at 8.01%. Urban joblessness also remained high at 7.53% (See table).

The latest uptick in rural distress is in sharp contrast to the muted 5.84% rural unemployment rate in September, which was much lower than the previous month's 7.68%.

According to Mahesh Bhatt, chief business officer at TeamLease Services, erratic rainfalls and tightening financial conditions have led to muted economic activities, which in turn affected rural employment prospects.

Other experts blame macro-economic factors. "The looming fears of recession in the US market have created a panic among many IT companies. As a safeguard against decreasing demand for new projects and a volatile future they have frozen new hirings," said Aditya Narayan

Mishra, MD and CEO of CIEL HR Services. He added that the joining dates of freshers are also getting pushed, pushing up unemployment rates. CEOs of IT firms have given cautious outlooks during Q2 results, while clients are taking time to seal bigger deals.

While the venture capital

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%) Average			
Month	India	Rural	Urban
April 1	7.83	7.38	9.22
May 1	7.14	6.63	8.24
June 1	7.83	8.07	7.32
July 1	6.83	6.17	8.22
August 1	8.28	7.68	9.57
Sept 1	6.43	5.84	7.7
October*	7.86	8.01	7.53

*30-day average till October 19

Source: CMIE

fund flow was at its peak, many start-ups were on a hiring spree but with the changing business dynamics, funds have dried up.

"Start-ups are realigning their talent strategy and this has impacted the overall employment sentiment. Global recession fears have resulted in companies tightening their purse. This has affected short-term hiring sentiments," Bhatt added.

Ahead of state polls, PM to launch job fair tomorrow

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi



WITH elections to the crucial states of Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh coming up, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will on Saturday launch a nationwide recruitment drive called Rozgar Mela. It is part of a scheme to provide jobs to 10 lakh people. Appointment letters will be given to 75,000 candidates during the ceremony on Saturday, officials said.

The recruitment drive is to fill various vacancies in 38 central departments and ministries. The Ministry of Railways alone will hire 11,000 people for various gazetted and non-gazetted jobs under its various departments. The rail ministry will give the appointment letters for the posts of assistant loco pilots, technicians, clerks, guards and assistant station masters.

The home ministry will give away appointment letters for the posts of assistant commissioner, sub-inspector and constables, while the postal department will hire assistant stenographers, junior accountants and others.

Notably, the development comes in the wake of Congress presidential elections and Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra gaining traction especially in the southern states.

EXPRESS READ

B'luru fire dept gets boost with 90-m ladder

Bengaluru: On Thursday became the second city after Mumbai to get a 90-metre aerial ladder platform that will enable fire and emergency personnel to reach up to 30 floors to fight fire and rescue people. The equipment was in the pipeline since the Carlton Tower tragedy which claimed nine lives and left around 70 injured in 2010. P3

Nisha James transferred after harassment complaint

Bengaluru: IPS officer Nisha James, who was serving as DCP (Administration) in Bengaluru, has been transferred following allegations of harassment by her staff. She has now been posted as SP, Internal Security Division. James will be replaced by BM Laxmi Prasad as DCP. Several assistant staff had launched an online campaign against James.

SC/ST quota hike: Karnataka cabinet to take ordinance route

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

WITH just five months to go for the announcement of assembly elections in Karnataka, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai's cabinet on Thursday decided to promulgate an ordinance increasing the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (SC/ST) reservation in the state.

The ordinance, once promulgated after the Governor's assent, will increase reservations for SCs from 15 to 17 per cent and for STs from 3 to 7 per cent. "Following the decision to enhance the SC/ST reservation, we introduced a bill to this effect before the cabinet, and it was decided to send it to the Governor to promulgate an ordinance," Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister J C Madhuswamy said after the cabinet meeting.

Explaining the need to hike the reservation, Madhuswamy said there were only six castes in Karnataka under Scheduled Castes previously and an additional 103 castes and nomads and slum-dwellers were added and hence the hike in reservation was necessary to accommodate the increased numbers. CONTINUED ON P4

PUNEETH

'KARNATAKA RATNA' FOR LATE ACTOR



Puneeth Rajkumar will be posthumously conferred the state's highest civilian award on November 1 for his contribution to Kannada film industry, language and culture | P4

A hostage situation, say flyers on 36-hr delay

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

AFTER a gruelling trip from Frankfurt to Istanbul in Turkey, 382 passengers reached Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) at 1.40 pm, over 36 hours behind scheduled time, by a Lufthansa flight. Besides heaving a huge sigh of relief over finally landing in India, passengers shared their agony and rage over the manner in which they were treated by a foreign airline as well as at a foreign airport.

Charges of racism, utter disrespect towards Indians and being treated as second-grade citizens flew thick and fast online and



Passengers of Lufthansa flight stranded at Istanbul Airport | SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

during interactions with TNIE. Flight LH 754 took off on Tuesday from Germany, 20 minutes behind its scheduled time of 1.05 pm and was supposed to reach KIA at 1.25 am on Wednesday. A major onboard medical emergency forced the flight to

be diverted mid-air. Vashishta Jayanti, who runs his own landscape design business in Bengaluru, had gone to Alitalia in Turkey. "Five of us flew to Frankfurt as Lufthansa operates a direct flight to Bengaluru from there. Just 25 minutes after the flight took off, an 85-year-old passenger, a Sri Lankan native, developed an health emergency. He was foaming at his mouth and had breathing problems. Three doctors, who were also passengers, were attending on him. After four hours of flying, the flight captain announced that the plane would be diverted to Baghdad and from there to Istanbul." P7

3 meetings cancelled, says Kej

Twice Grammy award winner Ricky Kej said three important meetings of his have now been cancelled and two postponed. "Due to lack of space in the lounge, I had to sit on the floor and staircase most of the time," he tweeted.



A biker navigates through a waterlogged road in Sultanpet in Bengaluru following heavy downpour on Wednesday night | REPORT: P2

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

EMBATTLED UK Prime Minister Liz Truss on Thursday put in her papers after 44 tumultuous days in office, going down in British history as the shortest serving premier ever.

The slide began after last month's mini-budget got embroiled in controversy as it contained £45 billion of unfunded tax cuts, which triggered uncertainty in the sterling and gilt markets.

Making a brief statement outside 10, Downing Street, Truss said a new party leader and prime minister would be chosen within a week.

That set the clock for the elec-

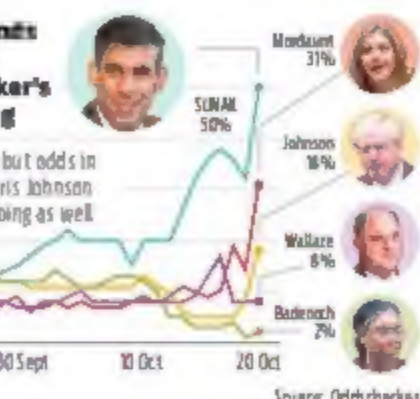
tion of her successor, with the names of former Chancellor Rishi Sunak, Leader of the House of Commons Penny Mordaunt, Defence Secretary Ben Wallace and former Home Secretary Suella Braverman doing the rounds. The name of Truss' predecessor Boris Johnson, too, is in circulation. Chancellor Jeremy Hunt ruled himself out, which could bolster a Sunak ticket because he was in the latter's camp before taking over the finance portfolio.

In the morning, Truss had met Sir Graham Brady, chair of the 1922 committee of backbench Tory MPs that sets the rules for the party leadership vote. He said the successor



should be in place by next Friday. The narrowed election window of a week necessitates online polling.

Each candidate will need the support of 100 MPs to enter the fray. But if there is only one



candidate in the race, there would be no need for a vote. However, the 1.6 lakh Tory voters have been promised a say in electing the new leader. "Bookmakers are putting Sunak and Mordaunt and Wallace as fa-

vourites," said a political observer from London.

"I cannot deliver the mandate on which I was elected by the Conservative Party... I will remain as PM until a successor has been chosen," Truss said in her brief speech.

Crisis talks with Sir Graham, deputy PM Theresa Coffey and Tory chair Jake Berry amid an avalanche of no-trust letters from party MPs gave her the sense that her time was up.

A day earlier, there was big Tory confusion over whether a Labour motion in Parliament involved a whip. The issue put to vote was on MPs having a say on the government's fracking plans to drill for gas. P21

11-yr-old washed away in Hassan flood

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Hassan

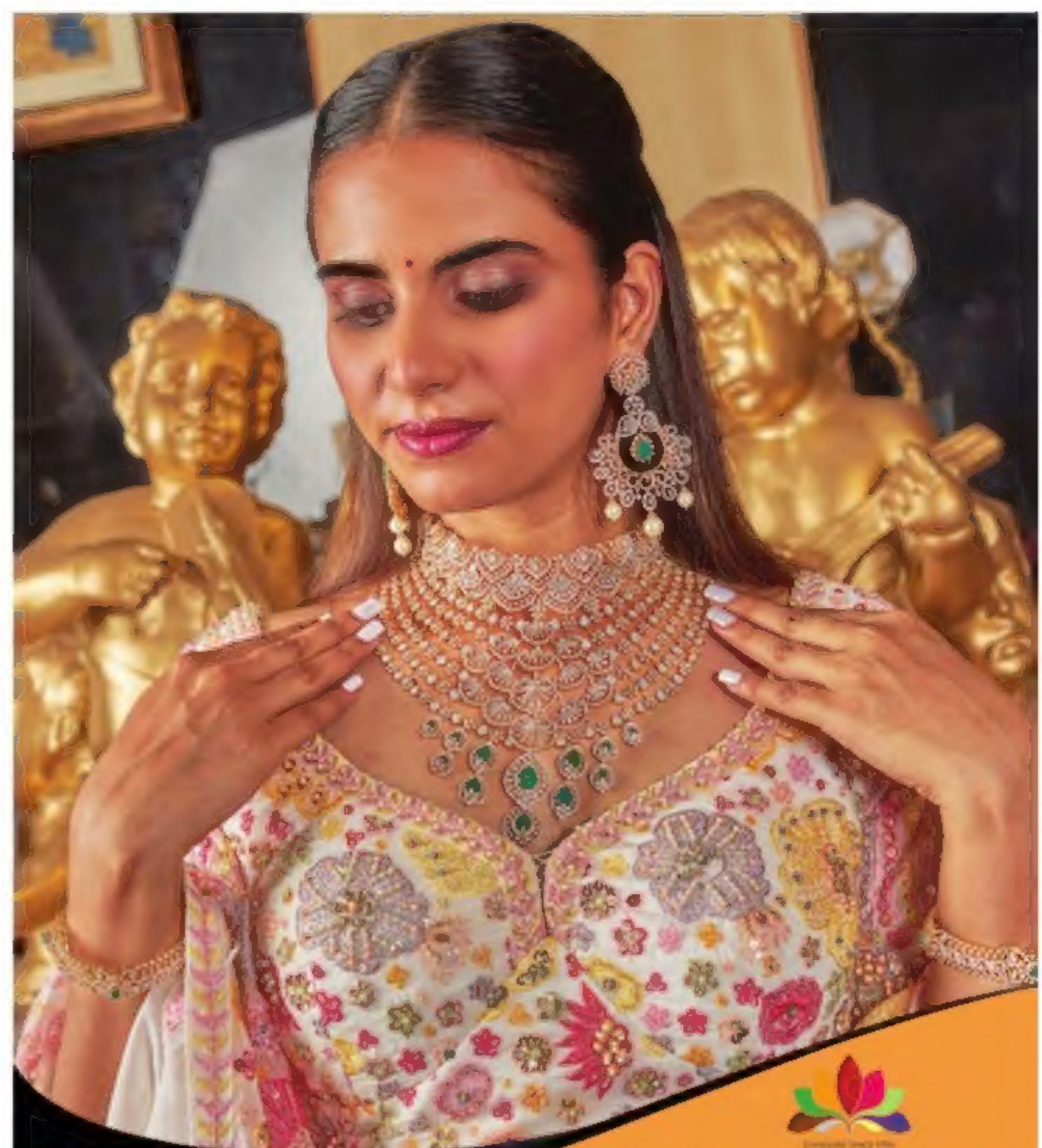
A 11-year-old girl died after she was washed away in floods while she was on her way to her school near Daddihalli tank of Channarayana taluk in Hassan district on Thursday morning. The victim is Ranjita, a class 5 student.

The incident occurred when she was going with her uncle

on his motorcycle. According to sources, Ranjita fell down from the motorbike when the rider lost control while crossing a bridge which was overflowing due to heavy rain. Daddihalli tank had breached due to floods in the morning hours. The girl's uncle had a narrow escape. The body of the girl was recovered and handed over to her parents.

IMD PREDICTS HEAVY RAIN

Bengaluru: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast heavy rain at isolated places in Bengaluru and surrounding areas for the next two days. Met officials have also issued a yellow alert for two days over coastal, north and south interior Karnataka. P2



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